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on which we were supposed to have become a "world power."

There is, then, in this direction not a shadow of ground for the further increase of our navy, unless the nation proposes to act the bully among the other nations and attempt to force its will upon unwilling powers and peoples regardless of justice and right, a supposition which even the most reckless defenders of a big and ever bigger navy would not care openly to champion. The whole weight of the argument for immediate limitation of our navy and army, drawn from the general international situation of the world and our own peculiar national position in particular, remains in all its force, rather strengthened than weakened by the larger and more prominent part which our country is now taking in the world's affairs.

Under these conditions it seems that the logical thing for the United States government to do at the present time would be, without respect to what the other nations may or may not promise to do, to stop short in the increase of the army and of the navy, and let it be known to all the world that it will live as if it trusted the sister nations and was ready at any moment to unite with them in an agreement for general limitation of armaments. Such an example would almost certainly meet with an immediate and cordial response from the other nations on whom the burdens of the present conditions bear much more heavily than upon us.

But however this may be as to the United States or any other single nation, it seems perfectly clear, under all the conditions of the times, that it is the imperative duty of the governments, in their collective capacity, to reach an agreement which at a very early day will relieve them, one and all, from the burdens which have grown to be so great and exhausting, and which the peoples ought no longer to be called upon to bear. The nation that leads in inducing the powers of the world to take this step — and some nation ought at once to take the lead — will have won for itself a place of honor in the world's history than which it would be difficult to conceive a higher or a nobler.

### Views of a Civil War Veteran.

At the time of the meeting at Newark, N. J., on the 5th of last month, to consider the advisability of the organization of a New Jersey Branch of the American Peace Society, William O. Stoddard, of Madison, wrote as follows to Dr. William Hayes Ward:

*My dear Sir:* I have received from the Boston office of the American Peace Society the circular issued with reference to the meeting to be held in Newark on the 5th of November. I am not physically able, at this present time, to attend in person. Seeing your name on the list of New Jersey members, and taking it for granted that you will attend, as you are a resident of Newark, etc., I beg leave to send through you not only my regrets, but my strong sympathy with the declared objects of the meeting.

I am an old army pensioner. I was a private soldier in the first company of volunteers, sworn in at the outset of the Civil War. From that time forward I received

numberless object lessons and other deep teachings concerning the folly, uselessness or needlessness and infernal wickedness of war. As a student of history, moreover, and not as one ignorant of the long murder record of the world, I am daily hoping and praying for the coming of that day in which no shadow of the dark horror of the savage and semi-savage centuries shall shut out the light.

What a vast and devilish grotesqueness is the present attitude of what are sarcastically described as the Christian nations! Each of them openly avowing its well-founded dread of some act of piracy on the part of one or all of the others, and diligently inventing, providing and accumulating stores of hideous machines for rapid and effective murder, in case of being dragged into the bloody arena of national slaughter!

I will not trouble you with more, but wish I had a louder voice wherewith to argue on behalf of the Prince of Peace.

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed) WILLIAM O. STODDARD.

### International Peace and Christian Missions.

BY GILBERT BOWLES.

[Gilbert Bowles, the author of this short article taken from the *Friends' Missionary Advocate*, has been for more than half a dozen years the head of the Friends' Mission at Tokyo, Japan. It was on his initiative and through his earnest and persistent efforts that the Peace Society of Japan, now having a membership of two hundred and fifty, was organized three years ago. Mr. Bowles is now in this country for a vacation, and has already spoken a number of times in the West on the subject of which he here writes. — ED.]

For the last year I have been thinking much about the relation of the peace movement to the progress of the Protestant missions, especially the connection between the Japan-American question and the evangelization of the Japanese people. In Seattle, Denver and Wichita, when I have had occasion to speak on the subject of mission work in Japan, I have made the appeal that all Christian people use their influence with the American press and platform toward a sane and friendly discussion of all Japanese questions. It is not what the American people decide relative to Japanese immigration, so much as it is the spirit manifest toward the Japanese nation, which will tell upon the friendly relations of the two peoples.

I have said repeatedly, and I expect to continue to say, that the greatest question connected with the evangelization of the Orient in our day is the spirit which the American people manifest toward Japan in the consideration of pending issues (recognizing that, although there are no "questions" in a governmental sense, there are unsolved problems). Money and men are needed for the furtherance of the missionary work in Japan, but, most of all, there is needed the same spirit of courtesy and helpfulness which has characterized the attitude of America toward Japan for the past half century.

My careful investigation of the attitude of the people of the Pacific Northwest, particularly of Seattle, with some study of the question in San Francisco, Denver and Wichita, assures me that the American people are in the main favorably inclined toward the Japanese. Although the labor organizations on the Pacific Coast are bitter, and although some intelligent people do not

know exactly how to answer Captain Hobson's arguments, the people in general are glad to believe in the sincerity of the Japanese government and people and in their expressed friendly feelings toward America.

I used every opportunity, in private and public, to assure the American people that if a warlike attitude should displace the friendly feelings of Japan toward America, it will be the result of continual nagging and suspicion on the part of some Americans who are taking the course best adapted to bring about the fulfillment of their own forebodings.

But Japan knows the heart of the American people. All who are interested in the missionary work in Japan can serve the cause in no more effective way than in stirring up the American people to an expression of their friendship toward Japan.

### State Conferences for International Arbitration and Peace.

*An Appeal Issued by the Permanent Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Peace Conference and Addressed to the Friends of the Cause in Other States.*

This pamphlet has been prepared in the hope that a brief account of the recent Pennsylvania Conference may be found encouraging and helpful in the organization of similar conferences in other states and territories.

#### REASONS FOR PROMPT ACTION.

The work to be done by such conferences is urgently needed and cannot be begun too soon. One of their primary objects should be to develop such a pressure of public opinion as will induce and enable our government to take the lead in securing the final completion and ratification of the propositions recommended by the second Hague Conference. One of the most important of those propositions was the convention for establishing an International Court of Arbitral Justice, and although the delegates to the Conference failed to reach a unanimous agreement in regard to a method for selecting the judges, it is understood that the court may be established by any three or more powers which may agree upon such action. We believe that the United States government can be induced to take the lead in the necessary negotiations for this great achievement. Such a court will be a long step towards the final realization of the hopes of the wisest statesmen of past and present centuries. It will be the beginning of a permanent judicial system for the decision of disputes between independent powers, and a powerful factor in the avoidance and ultimate abolition of warfare.

Another urgent duty is to make a beginning in the preliminary work for the third Hague Conference, which will probably meet in or before the year 1915. An official preparatory committee is to be appointed two years before the meeting by the governments of the world. The work of that committee and the success and progress of that conference will necessarily depend upon the results of such efforts as are now being made or advocated for the organized development and adequate expression of public opinion in all the nations of the earth. For a task of such magnitude the time available is none too long.

A third matter of immediate consequence is that steps should be taken to counteract the attempts recently made to complicate the situation by forcing the proposed con-

ferences to discuss the fighting strength of our own country and to advocate great increases in its army and navy. This is a national, as distinguished from an international, question, and it is one in regard to which the friends of arbitration and the people generally differ widely in their views. Its intrusion in a conference for the promotion of International Arbitration would be as unnecessary as it would be unwise and suicidal, because there are ample and better opportunities for its discussion and settlement elsewhere, and because no such conference could take any position either for or against an increase of our national armaments, without paralyzing its own usefulness by alienating and excluding a very large portion of its most earnest and valuable supporters. On the other hand, it has been proved by experience that with a consistent avoidance of such action those who advocate and those who oppose more battleships can work together in entire harmony for a greater development and a more general and authoritative expression of public opinion in favor of arbitration or judicial decision as a substitute for war in the settlement of international difficulties. It is by working along these lines that the state conferences can find unlimited opportunities for usefulness in their respective states, and ultimately through the coöperation of their executive committees in the national, and possibly in the international, field.

In this connection the following extracts from a letter written by Hon. Elihu Root, Secretary of State, to the Pennsylvania Conference, and from a recent circular issued by a Committee of the Mohonk Conferences, are of interest.

#### EXTRACT FROM SECRETARY ROOT'S LETTER.

"I am very sure that the result of following your admirable program will be most useful. The true work of promoting peace is not so much a matter of diplomacy as it is a matter of education. The great obstacle to the peaceable settlement of most international disputes is to be found in popular intolerance of concession. Peaceable settlement usually involves mutual concession, yet when two international negotiators are called upon to make concessions necessary to settlement, they both have to face the probability of popular condemnation if they give up anything. It is ordinarily much more popular to bring on a war than it is to avert one. When the people of the civilized countries have been educated up to the spirit of fairness and just consideration for the rights of others, so that the situation is reversed, the danger of war will be in a great measure ended."

#### EXTRACT FROM A MOHONK CONFERENCE CIRCULAR.

"The United States government is entitled to the most cordial commendation for the earnestness, wisdom and tact which it has shown in connection with the Hague Conferences and in its subsequent efforts to carry out their recommendations and to negotiate new treaties. But the government needs something more than commendation in this purely non-partisan and non-political work. It needs to know that in this highest field of statesmanship it has behind it an active public sentiment so strong and so well-informed that there can never be any lack of adequate support against unwise criticism or adverse interests." \* \* \* \*

"It is in this educational work and in the promotion and increase of the needful public sentiment that every